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HB456

My son was a volunteer Teen Peer Educator for Planned Parenthood of Montana for three years while in high school in Billings. He very much enjoyed working with this group and was exposed to many positive ideas and valuable information. Because of what I knew he was learning about sexuality, contraception, relationships, etc., I have always been very comfortable with him out there in the dating world despite the many, many negative influences young people have in today's world. The information he was learning, which he freely discussed with me, counteracted the bombardment of sexuality that our culture and media dishes out daily to our young people. He has taken what he has learned and applied it to his own life and has been great about giving accurate information to his peers when asked.

Comprehensive and medically accurate sexuality education is absolutely necessary in the schools! From my experience, I know that my son has been very responsible in his choices in the dating world due largely to what he learned during his tenure on the Teen Board for Planned Parenthood. This group not only taught him the facts about reproduction but also how to prevent pregnancy and the spread of disease. All kids should be allowed to benefit from this type of education! The more knowledge, the more kids are able to make wise choices and more likely they are to postpone sexual involvement. I saw this happen with my own son.

Planned Parenthood of Montana should be allowed to continue providing this critical service to our young people in the schools because most teachers and parents do not.

Sincerely,

Michele M. De Groat
Parent of Teen Board participant